weightage of the service rendered as *ad hoc* employees for fixation of pay.

STD facilities in the Post Offices in North Avenue and South Avenue

972. SHRI JERILE E. TARIANG: will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to provide STD facilities at the places of public utility; and

(b) whether any steps are being taken to provide the facilities in the post offices located in North Avenue and South Avenue, New Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) A limited number of STD Public Telephones imported alongwith Electronic exchanges from Japan are being tried in the network.

At present it is not possible to provide this facility in Post Offices at North Avenue and South Avenue due to paucity of instruments.

Area under Social Forestry in Meghalaya

973. SHRI JERLIE E. TARIANG: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the area covered by Social Forestry in the State of Meghalaya; and

(b) what is the area proposed for its extension during the current and the next year's annual plans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) During the Sixth plan period and the year 1985-86, 15731 and 6550 hectares respectively were brought under afforestation including Social Forestry in Meghalaya.

(b) During the current financial year, the target is 7500 hectares. The target for next year is yet to be finalised.

Killing of elephants

974. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the wild elephants in the forests of South India are being killed by the poachers in large number;

(b) if so, what remedial steps are envisaged to stop and check these killings; and

(c) whether the Government propose to ban the use of ivory to ensure that wild elephants are not killed for gain?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) There have been reports of killing of wild elephants in the forests of South India by poachers.

(b) A statement is attached. (*See* below)

(c) Provision has already been made that no licence would be granted for dealing in Indian ivory and exemption presently available for ivory under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 has been abolished. However, use of ivory of African elephant and imported into India for manufacturing articles and their re-export will be permitted with condition that the manufacturers and dealers will be required to take licences under the Act.

Statement

The following steps have been taken to stop illegal elephant killing:—

(i) Coordination between the Chief Wildlife Wardens of Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu is being organised by regular meetings and exchange of information on movement of elephants and poaching incidents.

(ii) Such Coordination has also been arranged between the middle and lower level officials of these states.